

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for dispensing and distributing food for aquatic fauna, which can be fitted in aquariums or containers for holding live fish, ~~but also as well as~~ in tanks for turtles and terrariums in general or similar, this device comprising a tank and means for pushing the food towards ~~an a~~ a dispensing outlet, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the tank (11) is positioned in a substantially horizontal direction and houses a pusher-mixer (12) which occupies the internal space of the tank and consists of a shaft (17) equipped with a plurality of sloping blades (18) all facing in the same direction as the direction in which the food is pushed towards the dispensing outlet (13), ~~whereby said this~~ dispensing outlet (13) presenting has a substantially vertical opening for the discharge of the food in a horizontal direction.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The A~~-device for dispensing and distributing food according ~~to claim 1, wherein to the foregoing claim, characterised in that~~ the end of the shaft (17) facing the dispensing area is equipped with a closing plate (19) positioned at right angles to the shaft (17) and which occupies one of the two half-sections defined by the center line of the shaft (17), whereby the closing plate (19) faces downwards with respect to the center line of the mixer when it is in the stationary or idle position.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The A~~-device ~~for dispensing and distributing food according to either of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 1, wherein~~ the plate (19) of the shaft (17) is functionally connected with the opening of the outlet (13)-and, depending on its position, determined by the rotation of the shaft (17), allows or prevents food dispensing and prevents the entry of humidity rising from below.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 1, wherein the outlet (13) is equipped with a reversible perforated dispenser ~~doser~~ (20) which has two sections (21, 22) with different sized holes.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 4, wherein said perforated dispenser ~~doser~~ (20), which is used for dispensing granular products, can be inserted one way up or the other according to the grain size of the food product to be dispensed.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 4, wherein the perforated dispenser (20) is inserted one way up or the other between two guides (23) positioned at the sides of the outlet (13), thus occupying the space and allowing controlled discharge of the food.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that as an alternative to the perforated doser (20) of claim 1, further comprising a sliding cover (24) for dosing flake type products.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 7, wherein said the sliding cover (24), which slides in the same between a pair of guides (23), can be moved to regulate the opening of the outlet (13) according to the amount of product to be dispensed into the aquarium.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The A-device for dispensing and distributing food

according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 1, wherein the shaft (17) is driven by an electric ~~type~~ motor (27); housed in the casing (14), this said motor rotating a kinematic drive unit (28) which drives a power take-off (29) engaged on the end of the shaft (17) opposite the end fitted with the plate (19).

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 9, wherein~~ said the power take-off (29) is shaped so as to maintain a direct grip with the shaft (17), allowing control of the position of the mixer-dispenser (12), and thus of the plate (19), according to the revolutions of the shaft (17) determined by the drive unit (28).

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that of claim 1, wherein~~ the tank (11) is fixed and shaped so as to be held, together with the motor parts, between two casings (14, 15) opposite to each other and specular with respect to the cylinder coupling area (16).

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The A-device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the casing of claim 11,~~ wherein one of said casings (14) is designed to contain the parts driving the pusher-mixer (12), while the other casing (15) houses the tank (11) and the pusher-mixer (12) and terminates, at its front end, with an outlet (13) equipped with closing means.